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the different meanings by the connections, but the untrained reader will fail to gain all of the profit which he might otherwise win from this, in many respects, excellent treatise.

J. W. BURGESS.

A History of Political Parties in the United States. Vol. I.

By J. P. GORDY, Ph.D., Professor of Pedagogy in Ohio University. Athens, Ohio, 1895. — 512 pp.

In order rightly to consider this book it must be kept in mind that the author, himself a teacher of pedagogy, designs it primarily for teachers who have not had the advantages of higher education and for business men. It is in no sense an original historical investigation into party origins and party organization and development. In this respect the title and the extensive plan of the work create expectations that will not be fulfilled. There is certainly room for a three-volume study of the history of political parties in the United States. Such a work should be definitely devoted to the institutional history of political parties and to the main lines of party action, as well as to the personality and influence of party leaders. It should be based upon extensive historical investigation and well-defined power of political analysis. The author should explore the political history of the various colonies for evidence of party divisions in each. He should investigate the geographical and social distribution of these colonial party divisions with a view to disclosing intercolonial areas or classes with common political sympathies, affording material for fusion into parties on a national scale. This evolution of national parties should be traced through the period of the Revolution and the Confederation. Until this historical foundation is exposed, no well-grounded history of parties in this country can be written. Nor can later party history be rightly presented without more attention to the history of party politics in the various states, to the sectional groupings revealed in congressional votes and presidential elections, and to the formation of the machinery of party action. In brief, a scientific history of political parties must find its basis in demographic facts, and must include a study of the evolution of the organs of party action. The general political history of the nation affects this development of parties, and parties contribute powerfully to the political history of the nation; but it is an error to think that party history and political history are identical.

This is the mistake made by the author of the work before us. The volume is, in fact, a compendium of the political history of the United

States from 1781 to the close of Jefferson's administration. The author has real pedagogical power, and presents the results of his historical reading in a clear and instructive way, but without particular originality in his views or power of literary expression. The chapters dealing with the period of Jefferson's presidency, for example, derive what is valuable in them from the work of Henry Adams. If, as Mr. Gordy implies, the teacher of American history is to be for the most part self-taught, and is not likely to use such extensive works as that of Mr. Adams, it is certainly fortunate that he has no worse a compendium than this to fall back on. But one may question whether a teacher of this description will accomplish much for the cause of American history in any case.

On the whole, the judgments of the author are well based ; while some of his work is particularly effective. His defense of Madison's consistency in deserting the Federalists for the Republicans is well presented ; as is also his analysis of the sources of Hamilton's strength and weakness.

On the other hand, he gives his reader no adequate information respecting concrete facts of the economic and social life of the American people, so important to enable us to understand this formative period in party history. There is disproportionate attention paid to the utterances of political leaders and to the analysis of their motives. The attitude of the political scientist sometimes dominates that of the historian. This is illustrated by Mr. Gordy's contention that the congress of the Confederation was not a government ; and by this interesting observation : "The Convention framed a constitution by the adoption of which thirteen peoples, imagining themselves independent and sovereign, really acknowledged themselves to be but parts of a single political whole. But they did it unconsciously." His assertion that the Anti-Federalists were not a sectional party fails to recognize that there are other sections besides the North and South. He notes Maclay's use of the word "Republican " as a party epithet without, it would seem, knowing that it was not uncommon in state usage before that. A tendency to absoluteness of statement when the facts do not justify it may also be noted, as when he declares that "with any other man as president, he [Genet] would in all probability have succeeded " in overthrowing the constituted authorities in favor of the revolution.

With the author's purpose in mind, one may say that, on the whole, he has performed his task with much success.